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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (Previously presented) A method for characterizing an image comprising:

partitioning the image into a plurality of partitions, each partition including a plurality of pixels, each pixel having a color,

determining a frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of pixels within each partition, and

creating a characterization of the image that includes a plurality of measures that are proportional to the frequency of occurrence of a plurality of colors.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including quantizing an encoded color of each pixel to provide the color of each pixel.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further including

identifying a plurality of populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color, and

the plurality of measures includes proportions of each of the plurality of populous colors in each partition.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein quantizing the encoded color includes

identifying a set of color centers, and

determining the color of each pixel based upon a color distance between the encoded color of each pixel and each of the set of color centers.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including

identifying a plurality of populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color, and

the plurality of measures includes proportions of each of the plurality of populous colors in each partition.

6. (Currently amended) A method of comparing a first image to a second image, comprising

partitioning the first image into a plurality of first partitions, each first partition including a plurality of first pixels, each first pixel having a color,

determining a frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of first pixels within each first partition,

partitioning the second image into a plurality of second partitions, each second partition including a plurality of second pixels, each second pixel having a color,

determining a frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of second pixels within each second partition

comparing the frequency of occurrence of a select ~~set~~ plurality of colors in each first partition with the frequency of occurrence of a corresponding ~~select set~~ plurality of colors in each second partition.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further including quantizing an encoded color of each pixel of the plurality of first pixels to provide the color of each pixel of the plurality of first pixels.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7, further including

identifying a plurality of first populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of first pixels, and

identifying a plurality of second populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of second pixels; and

wherein

the select ~~set~~ plurality of colors in each first partition corresponds to the plurality of first populous colors, and

the corresponding ~~set~~ plurality of colors in each second partition is based upon a color difference between each of the plurality of second populous colors and the plurality of first populous colors.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein quantizing the encoded color includes

identifying a set of color centers, and

determining the color of each pixel based upon a color distance between the encoded color of each pixel and each of the set of color centers.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further including

identifying a plurality of first populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of first pixels, and

identifying a plurality of second populous colors, based on the frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of second pixels; and

wherein

the select ~~set~~ plurality of colors in each first partition corresponds to the plurality of first populous colors, and

the corresponding ~~set~~ plurality of colors in each second partition is based upon a color difference between each of the plurality of second populous colors and the plurality of first populous colors.

12. (Previously presented) A system for characterizing an image comprising:

a partitioner that is configured to partition the image into a plurality of partitions, each partition including a plurality of pixels, each pixel having a color, and

an accumulator that is configured to determine a frequency of occurrence of each color of the plurality of pixels within each partition, and

wherein

the system is configured to create a characterization of the image that includes a plurality of measures that are proportional to the frequency of occurrences of a plurality of colors.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, further including a quantizer that is configured to quantize an encoded color of each pixel to provide the color of each pixel.

12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, wherein the plurality of measures are based on the frequency of occurrence of each of a plurality of populous colors in each partition.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the quantizer is configured to quantize the encoded color based upon a color distance between the encoded color of each pixel and each of a set of color centers.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of measures are based on the frequency of occurrence of each of a plurality of populous colors in each partition.

16. (Currently amended) A system for comparing a first image to a second image, the system comprising:

a similar color determinator that is configured to determine a mapping between a first ~~set~~ plurality of colors of pixels of the first image and a second ~~set~~ plurality of colors of pixels of the second image, based on a color distance between each of the first ~~set~~ plurality of colors and each of the second ~~set~~ plurality of colors,

the mapping thereby providing a corresponding color in the second ~~set~~ plurality of colors for each color in the first ~~set~~ plurality of colors, and

a similarity determinator that is configured to determine an image similarity measure based on a comparison of a frequency of occurrence of pixels of each of the first ~~set~~ plurality of colors and a frequency of occurrence of pixels of each of the corresponding colors in the second ~~set~~ plurality of colors.

17. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein

the first image is partitioned into a plurality of first partitions,

the second image is partitioned into a plurality of second partitions,

the similar color determinator is configured to determine the mapping between the first and second ~~sets~~ plurality of colors of pixels for each partition of the plurality of first and second partitions, and

the similarity determinator is configured to determine a plurality of similarity measures based on the comparison of the frequencies of occurrence of pixels of each of the first and second ~~set~~ plurality of colors for each partition of the plurality of first and second partitions, and further includes

an accumulator that is configured to provide the image similarity measure based on a composite of the plurality of similarity measures corresponding to each partition of the first and second partitions.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein

the similarity determinator is further configured to determine the similarity measure based upon the color distances between each of the first ~~set~~ plurality of colors and the corresponding color in the second ~~set~~ plurality of colors.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 16, wherein



the first ~~set~~ plurality of colors of the pixels of the first image is based on a quantization of encoded colors of the pixels of the first image.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein

the quantization of encoded colors is based on a color distance between the encoded color of each pixel and each of a set of color centers.